

**Q&As from Middle School RFI Information Session
March 8, 2012**

GENERAL

Q: This Levy is different because schools will be proposing their own targets. Can OFE provide any guidance on setting appropriate targets?

A: The Levy sets ambitious goals. Overall, OFE does not intend to set lower cumulative targets for all Middle School Levy Investments. When examining all of the middle school RFIs, OFE hopes to see targets at higher levels than what has already been achieved.

On the school level, targets should be aggressive but achievable. OFE will work with the selected schools to finalize outcomes and indicators and their respective targets based on the latest available data and Levy goals. Schools should also look at their own performance in past years to determine the right target levels as some schools have greatly exceeded targets and others have struggled to meet targets.

Q: How should schools approach setting targets over the duration of the Levy given the impending transition to Common Core?

A: Schools should work with the current standards. OFE will work with the state, Seattle Public Schools and other entities to recalibrate to new Common Core standards.

Q: When is the Elementary School RFI Information session?

A: The Elementary School RFI information session was scheduled for March 9 from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. but was cancelled due to a power outage. The session has been rescheduled for Friday, March 23, 3:00 – 5:00 pm at The 2100 Building, 2100 24th Ave S.

Q: Will the presentation be posted?

A: Yes. <http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/education/funding.htm>

BUDGET/FUNDING/CBOs/CONTRACTING

Q: If a school wants to partner with a CBO for \$5,000 or less, would that be arranged through a personal services contract with Seattle Public Schools?

A: Yes, that would likely be arranged through a personal services contract with Seattle Public Schools. Once the schools are selected through the RFI process, Seattle Public Schools will host a contracting workshop specifically for those schools. Some schools also sub-contract through their CLCs.

Please note that the \$5,000 exception is for total Levy funds received by the agency, not just per school.

Q: Can CBOs that have been approved through the RFQ process become an umbrella for organizations that have either not applied or not been approved through the RFQ process?

A: No. Levy base pay can go only to CBOs that have been approved through the RFQ process. The only exception to this rule is any CBO receiving \$5,000 or less total in Levy funds per year.

Q: If a school identifies a partner, will that partner be contracting with Seattle Public Schools or directly with OFE?

A: It will depend on the situation but either scenario is possible.

DATA

Q: The data sheets received by schools include typical growth for MAP – is that spring to spring or fall to fall growth?

A: OFE's understanding is that the numbers used are the most recent MAP scores going back to the equivalent time of last year. The reports schools are receiving for the RFI application process now should be fall to fall unless the student did not have MAP scores.

Q: Can you define “core courses”?

A: Math, science, reading, writing, and social studies.

Q: Can you elaborate on the summer learning part of Levy funding?

A: There is a separate pot of money specifically for summer learning starting in summer of 2013 and increasing every year. For the summer of 2013, there will be about \$300,000 for middle school summer learning. Each year after that it will increase approximately \$300,000 with final phase-in in the summer of 2018. The summer learning RFI will be released in the fall. Schools and CBOs will be eligible to compete for these funds. Schools may include summer learning in this round of RFIs and/or submit an RFI in the summer learning RFI process. If a school chooses the latter, it should mention plans to submit a summer learning RFI in this round of RFI submissions.

Q: When schools are tracking ELL academic progress, the baseline is last year's WLPT II data. How will the data transition now that WELPA is being used?

A: The state is doing a cross-walk between the two tests because of federal requirements and we will have to look at what the state does and recalibrate accordingly. MAP scores can also be used to track progress of ELL students.

Q: Can schools get historical data?

A: Not from OFE. Schools should have been receiving this data from REA in your dropbox. Additional questions/requests can be addressed to Mark Teoh directly or at the data sessions workshops (March 6, 14, and 21 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at JSCEE).

MIDDLE SCHOOLS QUESTIONS

Q: When will Kristi Skanderup be available to meet with schools?

A: Please schedule with Kristi as soon as possible, if you have not already. She is available until April 4, 2012.

Q: For K-8 schools, how will OFE look at alignment of elementary school investments and middle school investments?

A: Middle school/linkage RFIs are due earlier (April 13) than elementary school RFIs (April 27). OFE will work with schools on this alignment.

Q: Can a K-8 submit multiple RFIs at the same time?

A: Yes, RFIs may be submitted anytime before the respective deadlines.

Q: Is OFE looking for partnerships between schools (e.g. feeder patterns)?

A: The partnerships mentioned in the RFI are referring mostly to partnerships with CBOs. Each RFI will be evaluated on its own merit. However, demonstrating strong and effective partnerships (especially around transitions) between schools would likely strengthen an RFI submission.